

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 DIWY-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 /074 W

-----011335Z 102386 /50

R 311727Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6052

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT ML

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT TRAORE ANNOUNCES PARTY ELECTIONS

REF: BAMA KO 1186 (NOTAL)

1. MALIAN PRESIDENT MOUSSA TRAORE, IN RADIO ADDRESS TO MALIAN PEOPLE EVENING MARCH 28, ANNOUNCED CAMPAIGN TO ELECT LOCAL OFFICERS OF NEW UNION DEMOCRATIQUE DU PEUPLE MALIEN (UDPM). ELECTION, SAID PRESIDENT, WOULD FULFILL OBJECTIVES SET BY ARMY AFTER ITS 1968 COUP AND EFFECTIVELY GIVE BIRTH TO PARTY. ACCORDING TO PRESIDENT, INFORMATION TEAMS ALREADY ON WAY TO MALI'S CITIES AND VILLAGES TO EXPLAIN ELECTION PROCEDURES.

2. PRESIDENT DID NOT GIVE DATE FOR ELECTIONS OR CLEARLY DEFINE THEIR SCOPE. HIS REMARKS
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SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT ELECTIONS WILL BE FOR POSITIONS ON LOCAL PARTY COMMITTEES. ACCORDING TO UDPM STATUTES, LOCAL COMMITTEES SHOULD THEN CHOOSE MEMBERS OF PARTY SUB-SECTIONS, SUB-SECTIONS CHOOSE MEMBERS OF PARTY SECTIONS, AND SECTIONS CHOOSE DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONGRESS. BY ELECTING LOCAL PARTY OFFICIALS, PRESIDENT SAID, MALIAN PEOPLE WOULD

DEFINE FUNDAMENTAL CHOBKES WHICH DETERMINE PARTY POLICY. PARTY IS BORN, PRESIDENT CONCLUDED, BY ELECTION OF ITS OFFICIALS.

3. COMMENT: UDPM'S ELABORATE ELECTION PROCEDURES GUARANTEE LONG GESTATION PERIOD FOR EMBRYO PARTY. FURTHERMORE, AS PRESIDENT ADMITTED, YOUTH, WHICH WITH WOMEN AND LABOR IS FOUNDATION STONE OF UDPM'S MASS MOVEMENTS, HAS YET TO BE ORGANIZED. NONETHELESS, PRESIDENT SAID THAT NATIONAL CONGRESS HAD TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE END OF TRANSITIONAL PERIOD. (NOTE: ACCORDING TO CONSTITUTION, RULING MILITARY COMMITTEE HAS FULL POWERS UNTIL JUNE 1979.)

4. ALTHOUGH PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT APPEAS BUT MODEST STEP TOWARD DEMOCRATIC POLITICS, IT WAS CAREFULLY PLANNED. MONTH BEFORE ANNOUNCEMENT, MALI'S OFFICIAL DAILY L'ESSOR BEGAN SEVEN-ARTICLE SERIES ON "MALI AT THE CROSSROADS" WHICH ANALYZED MALI'S POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT SINCE INDEPENDENCE AND CALLED FOR OPEN DEBATE AND DIALOGUE ON OPTIONS NOW BEFORE PARTY AND MALIAN PEOPLE. A WEEK AGO, MILITARY COMMITTEE CALLED REGIONAL GOVERNORS AND ADMINISTRATORS AND MILITARY HIGH COMMAND TOGETHER FOR MEETING ON PARTY POLICY AND PROCEDURES. WITH ANNOUNCEMENT OF PARTY ELECTIONS, MALI'S PRESIDENT IS SLOWLY BUT DETERMINEDLY LEADING HIS MILITARY COLLEAGUES, HIS GOVERNMENT, AND HIS PEOPLE INTO PARTICIPATORY GOVERNMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Remarks:
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